

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 53, 66, 71, 80-98, and 100, and amend claims 32, 67-70, 72, 77, 78, 79, 99, and 102-106, as follows.

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Amended) A data unit comprising:

a data card comprising

a non-magnetic substrate and ~~a data region~~
~~comprising~~ a magnetic material layer for storing
~~magnetic signals in a plurality of parallel linear~~
data tracks;

a data card reader comprising

~~a base;~~

~~a substrate support, configured to support said~~
~~data card substrate, mounted to the base for~~
~~controlling movement of the data card along a first~~
~~path; and~~

~~first and second data head support surfaces~~
~~positioned at opposite ends of a second path and~~
~~adjacent to said substrate support, said first and~~
~~second paths being transverse to one another; and~~

a data head drive mounted to the base, the data
head drive comprising a data head reciprocally movable
along the second a first linear path that is parallel
to the plurality of parallel linear data tracks when
the plurality of parallel linear data tracks are
respectively positioned for signal communication with
the data head including over the first and second data
head support surfaces, wherein movement of the data
card along the first path positions the data region of
the data card for signal communication with the data

~~head during the movement of the data head along the second path.~~

33-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~66~~ 32, wherein the data card reader further comprises a cleaning roller for cleaning ~~adapted to clean~~ the data card.

68. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~66~~ 32, wherein the data card reader further comprises a means for cleaning the data card.

69. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~66~~ 32, wherein the data card reader further comprises a data card cleaner ~~coupled to the base~~.

70. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~66~~ 32, wherein the data head contacts the data card during the signal communication.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~70~~ 32, wherein said magnetic material layer comprises a thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material.

73. (Previously Added) The data unit of claim 72, wherein the data card further comprises an abradable protective coating over the magnetic material layer.

74. (Previously Added) The data unit of claim 73, wherein said protective coating comprises at least two layers, wherein one of said layers includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material and another of said layers is a non-magnetic friction reducing layer formed over the magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

75. (Previously Added) The data unit of claim 74, wherein the data card further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said at least one magnetic material layer, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.

76. (Previously Added) The data unit of claim 73, wherein said protective coating comprises a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

77. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~75~~ 76, wherein the data card further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said at least one magnetic material layer, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.

78. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim 73, wherein the data card reader further comprises a data card cleaner ~~coupled to the base.~~

79. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~66~~ 32, wherein the data head ~~does not contact the data card during the signal communication~~ is a flying head.

80-98. (Cancelled)

99. (Currently Amended) A data unit for communicating signals with a data card including magnetic material for storing signals, said data unit comprising:

a support that ~~receives~~ secures the data card during said communicating of the signals ~~and to which the said data card is coupled, the support being operable to move the data card along a first path;~~ and

a data head operable to communicate the signals with the magnetic material, ~~the data head being reciprocally movable along a second path perpendicular to the first path~~

wherein a first relative movement of the data head and the magnetic material causes the data head to be positioned over a first linear data track in the magnetic material, so that said signals can be communicated between the data head and the first linear data track during a first linear movement of the data head parallel to the first linear data track, and

wherein a subsequent second relative movement of the data head and the magnetic material causes the data head to be positioned over a second linear data track in the magnetic material, the second linear data track being parallel to the first linear data track, so that said signals can be communicated between the data head and the second linear data track during a second linear movement of the data head parallel to the second linear data track.

100. (Cancelled)

101. (Previously Added) The data unit of claim 99, wherein said magnetic material comprises a thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material.

102. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~100~~ 101, wherein the data card further comprises a protective coating over the magnetic material.

103. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~100~~ 101, wherein said protective coating comprises at least two layers, wherein one of said layers includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material and another of said layers is a non-magnetic friction reducing layer formed over the magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

104. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~102~~ 103, wherein the data card further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said magnetic material, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.

105. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~100~~ 101, wherein said protective coating comprises a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

106. (Currently Amended) The data unit of claim ~~104~~ 105, wherein the data card further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said magnetic material, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.